

Agenda
Tolland Agriculture Commission
Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room B, 2nd Level, 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, Connecticut

1. Call to Order
2. Seat Alternate(s)
3. Public Participation
4. Additions to Agenda
5. Old Business
 - 5.1. Campbell Farm
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Bees on Town Property
7. Other Business – Staff or Commission Members
8. Approve Minutes – September 19, 2022 Regular Meeting
9. List of topics for the next meeting
10. Adjournment



TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, Connecticut 06084

MEMO

TO: Agriculture Commission

FROM: David Corcoran, AICP, Director of Planning & Development

DATE: September 29, 2022

RE: Campbell Farm

Staff is continuing to work towards getting a quote for a possible well – so that we may apply for grant funding in the spring.

In the meantime, Jack Yurgel approached Staff last week and asked if we could help to solve the water problem by trucking in 1500 gallons of water each spring, with Jack providing the storage tanks for the water.

In discussing this with Public Works and the Town Manager, the Town is amenable to the idea and will investigate the costs of providing this water to Mr. Yurgel.



MEMO

TO: Agriculture Commission

FROM: David Corcoran, AICP, Director of Planning & Development

DATE: September 29, 2022

RE: Bees

Last month, an apiary operator came to Town Hall interested in placing honey bees on a piece of Town Property off of Sugar Hill Road.

After conversations with the Conservation Commission, Agriculture Commission, and Town Staff, there is agreement that there would be benefit to the ecology of the Town to allow for this to happen. It was agreed that the Agriculture Commission should take the lead on developing a process to permit this activity, with input from the Conservation Commission and eventual adoption by the Town Council.

As the Agriculture Commission deliberates a good process, the following criteria could be considered:

Application procedure:

1. Application on a first come, first served basis and valid for one year, renewable from year to year.
2. Available on Town property with no hiking trails.
3. Evaluation and approval to be completed by Agriculture Commission, who shall seek feedback from the Conservation Commission if the proposed use is located in a Conservation area.

Applicants will need to provide:

1. Proof of insurance
2. Proof of registration of honey bees with the State of Connecticut.
3. A site plan indicating where they intend to keep the beehives

Requirements:

1. Sign shall be posted by hives with name and contact information for beekeeper
2. A source of clean water must be located within 50 feet of any beehives.
3. Beehives shall be at least 25 feet away from and not visible from public streets.
4. Beehives shall be located at least 200 feet from and not visible from adjacent residential structures.
5. The area immediately around the beehives must be kept free of debris.
6. Beehives shall be temporary, easily removable structures.

Several other documents are attached which provide additional information the Commission could consider.

Hive Location, Ownership, and Management of Bee Colonies in Connecticut

Hives

All honeybee colonies should be housed in hives with frames that can be easily removed. This does not preclude the use of any size or shape of hive, other than the usual 16 x 20 dimensions. Hives should be kept off the ground on wooden pallets or cinder blocks to prevent wood rot. They should be painted and any bad wood replaced. The area around the hives should be mowed and any debris removed. Periodic inspection for disease is recommended.

Locating honeybee colonies

In residential areas, especially near walkways or areas of increased public use, bees need to be encouraged to fly over people's heads. It is suggested that a 6-foot high flyway barrier be built so that when the honeybees leave the hive, they are forced to fly upwards to avoid contact with people. A flyway barrier can be made of wood or plastic at least four millimeters thick and suitably braced. Hay bales or dense vegetation can also be used. Be very careful in areas where children might play.

Honeybee colonies should not be kept in direct sunlight, with proper ventilation and a fresh water source.

Water

In Connecticut, by March 15th, beekeepers in urban or suburban areas should provide a continuing source of clean water for their bees. This should be placed within 25-50 feet of the hive(s). Bees become dependent on this source and so will not congregate at nearby swimming pools, animal watering bowls, birdbaths or other water sources used by humans or domestic animals.

Maintenance of Honeybee colonies

Beekeepers should ensure that no burr comb, honey, miticide strips or related materials be dropped around the apiary site. All such material should be disposed of promptly and in sealed containers. Do not leave wet supers recently extracted out for cleaning by the bees, near areas where people or animals frequent. Robber bees that might visit can become unusually aggressive. Where many hives are kept together, place equal strength hives together. This will reduce the tendency of strong hives robbing weaker ones. Hives become more aggressive in late summer and fall or when nectar supplies are reduced. Hive inspections should be curtailed during these periods. During nectar flow, the best time for inspection is between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. when temperatures are over 60° F.

If there is a need to feed bees or there is a robbing problem, feed the bees at night removing the sugar source by dawn. During late summer and autumn, reducing the size of hive entrances can reduce robbing. Some bee colonies may persist with unusually aggressive behavior. Replacing the queen might help. Contact a more experienced beekeeper or inspector for help and advice, if this proves to be too difficult.

In residential areas, place hives out of public view. Place hives behind trees or shrubs, using them as natural flyway barriers. Painting the hives a green or brown to blend them into the landscape may be desirable. In Connecticut, it is not necessary to paint the hives a traditional white. Weather is relatively cool in the state and bees can easily regulate interior hive temperatures.

Offering neighbors gifts of honey is good public relations. In the future, they may be called upon to sign a petition or testify that your bees were no trouble to them. Be a good neighbor. Think that it is a privilege to be able to keep bees, not a right assured by law.

Honeybees are considered wild animals. It may be prudent to contact an insurance company to determine insurance coverage for bee stings.

Hive densities in neighborhoods

Many hives in a heavily residential neighborhood is not a good idea. One or two hives is better. Common sense should prevail. Contact the State bee Inspector or advise.

Ownership and marking of hives

It is suggested, that any apiaries not on the beekeepers own land, should have a clear visible sign, showing the name and telephone number of the owning beekeeper. One sign could be placed on each end hive. Alternatively, a small sign might be placed next to the apiary. If there is no sign, then it is assumed that the apiary belongs to the owner of the land on which the hives have been placed. If there were a complaint, then the landowner might be contacted.

Summary

The above suggestions are made in the hopes of avoiding "bee problems". At times, as a beekeeper, you may be blamed for wild bee activities. Hopefully these suggestions will minimize problems and make us better managers of our bees.

List your name with the local police and fire departments as a person willing to collect bee swarms. Everyone benefits from a quickly collected swarm. Registering your name with the deputy state entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural

Experiment Station, New Haven as someone willing to collect swarms, both benefits you and the community. The station telephone number is (203) 974-8479.

Joining a bee club is recommended, [Ctbees.com] they will provide source information, support, and keep you up to date with new ideas and developments in the beekeeping industry. It is also the law to register honey bee hives with the State Entomologist. www.ct.gov/caes The State bee Inspector at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is trained to help you be a better beekeeper and to help you prevent the spread of honeybee diseases and can be contacted at 203-530-5743.

April 8, 2014



Guidelines for Keeping Bees in Populated Areas

There are approximately 3,000 to 3,500 registered beekeepers in New Jersey. Of these, only about 5 percent can be considered commercial beekeepers having 20 or more colonies of bees. The majority of the registered beekeepers in the state manage only about 1 to 10 colonies.



It is possible to keep honey bees in crowded suburban areas, on tiny city lots or on rooftops in large or small cities without problems. However, keeping bees successfully in a populated area requires a good understanding of basic bee biology, property rights and human psychology. Beekeepers in suburbs and cities need to manage their bees so they do not become a nuisance to their neighbors. By understanding the circumstances under which bees will bother people, beekeepers can take measures to alter circumstances so their bees do not create a problem.

Honey bees can be kept almost anywhere there are flowering plants that produce nectar and pollen. Choose a site for beehives that is discrete, sheltered from winds and partially shaded. Avoid low spots in a yard where cold, damp air accumulates in winter. Be considerate of non-beekeeping neighbors. Place hives so that bee flight paths do not cross sidewalks, playgrounds or other public areas. Provide your bees with a water source in your yard to prevent them from seeking out water at neighbors' swimming pools or water spigots.



The Department has developed the following best management practices for beekeepers to reduce potential conflict with neighboring property owners.

1. There must be no more than three hives of honey bees per lot size of one-quarter acre or less.
2. When a colony is situated less than 10 feet from a property line, the beekeeper must establish a flyway barrier. This should be at least 6 feet tall and extend 10 feet beyond the colony on either side. It can be solid, vegetative or any combination of the two, that forces the bees to cross the property line at a height of 6 feet.
3. All colonies must be located at least 25 feet from a public sidewalk, alley, street or roads.
4. All apiaries must have on site an adequate source of water within 25 feet of the hive(s) at all times (especially between March 1st and October 31st).
5. All bee equipment and hives must be maintained in good condition.
6. All colonies must be kept in moveable frame hives in accordance with N.J.S.A.4: 6-10.
7. All colonies must be inspected by the beekeeper or his delegate no less than three times between March 1 and October 1 of each year.
8. A substantial barrier/ fence must be erected to prevent animals and children from coming into close contact with the hives.



Best Management Practices for Siting Honey Bee Colonies: Good Neighbor Guidelines

James D. Ellis and Jerry Hayes

Introduction

Beekeeping is becoming increasingly popular in Florida. Commercial beekeepers maintain hundreds if not thousands of colonies for honey production and to provide pollination services to crops, while the typical urban or backyard beekeeper maintains one to five colonies. Backyard beekeeping traditionally has provided honey for home consumption and general enjoyment for those who practice the craft.

Keeping honey bees requires responsible management so that the bees do not become a nuisance. Additionally, the presence of Africanized honey bees in Florida places more pressure on beekeepers to maintain their colonies properly (for information about Africanized honey bees, see: <https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/beekeeper-resources/african-bees/>).

This document is intended as a reference for honey bee management in Florida, with emphasis on siting apiaries in sensitive locations. It is intended that these recommendations form a prescription for harmonious cooperation between beekeepers, neighbors, and landowners.

Definitions

As used in this document, the following words and terms have the meanings noted in this section, unless the context of their usage clearly indicates another meaning:

1. Apiary means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
2. Beekeeper means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
3. Beekeeping *equipment* means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards, and extractors.
4. Colony or hive means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and, at times, many drones, brood (immature honey bees—eggs,

larvae, pupae), combs, honey, and the receptacle inhabited by the bees.

5. Honey bee means all life stages of the common Western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*.

Requirement to Register

People keeping bees (any number of colonies) in Florida are required by law to register with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI— <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Bees-Apiary/Apiary-Inspection>). Renewal forms are sent annually to previously registered beekeepers for return to the FDACS-Division of Plant Industry (DPI) along with the appropriate annual fee specified in the fee schedule. Beekeepers who change addresses are requested to notify the Department. For more information on registering bee colonies in Florida, see: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Bees-Apiary/Beekeeper-Registration>.

Hive Type

All honey bee colonies should be kept in removable-frame hives such as Langstroth-type hives or similar. The hives should be kept in sound and usable condition.

Fencing of Flyways

In instances where colonies are situated within close proximity (~25 feet) to a public or private property line of the land upon which the apiary is situated, it is advisable, though not always necessary, to establish and maintain a flyway barrier. The ideal barrier is at least 6 feet high and consists of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof and extends 10 or more feet beyond the colony(ies) in each direction. This will force the bees to fly at an elevation of at least 6 feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary. This flight path will minimize human/bee traffic interactions.





Figure 1. Backyard beekeeping set-up using hives with movable frames. Beekeeper has not exceeded the number of hives on this parcel. Hives are facing the fence, which acts as a flyway barrier.

Credit: Thien Gretchen <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tgretchen/>

Water

A convenient source of water should be available to the bees at all times during the year so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, pet watering bowls, or other watering sources where they may contact humans, birds, or domestic pets. Some sources of water that beekeepers can provide include: (1) a tub of water with wood floats to prevent the bees from drowning, (2) a faucet in the apiary that is left to drip steadily, or (3) Boardman entrance feeders (quart jars with holes in the lids) filled with water and placed on the colony(ies). If using tubs of water, change the water periodically to avoid stagnation and mosquito breeding.

General Maintenance

No bee comb or other materials should be left on the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials should be disposed of promptly in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

Beekeepers must follow Florida's *Beekeeper Compliance Agreement—Best Management Requirements for Maintaining European Honey Bee Colonies* produced by FDACS-DPI (see references). These must be followed by all registered beekeepers, even if the honey bee colonies are located on county or state property or are used for educational purposes. No honey bee colonies may be placed on public lands, including schools, parks, and other similar venues, except when a special permit letter is issued by the director of the FDACS-DPI and written consent of the property manager is acquired. In order to get the special permit letter, a beekeeper must have FDACS-DPI Apiary Inspectors perform a site visit to ensure the potential apiary site meets compliance criteria. Following this, the director of the FDACS-DPI, the head of the Apiary Inspection Section, and the regional apiary supervisor will meet to discuss the site. The director of the FDACS-DPI will issue a permit if the site is deemed suitable to host an apiary.

Queens

All colonies ideally should be maintained with marked European honey bee queens produced by breeders following "*Best Management Practices for Producing Honey Bee Queens in Florida*" (see references) or similar best management practices if produced by breeders from other states. When a colony exhibits unusual defensive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation, the beekeeper should requeen the colony with another marked European honey bee queen.

Miscellaneous

In compliance with the State of Florida Apiary Inspection Law regarding identification of honey bee hives, the beekeeper should post a sign at the apiary, which conspicuously sets forth his/her name and phone number.

To protect public safety and reduce beekeeping liability, apiaries should not be sited in proximity to tethered or confined animals, students, the elderly, the general public, drivers on public roadways, sites that attract visitors, or any area where animal/bee and people/bee interactions may have a high likelihood of occurring.

Beekeepers should take every precaution possible to limit unnecessary public/bee interactions. Using "common sense" will help reduce negative interactions between the public and honey bees, thus making beekeeping safe, enjoyable, and possible for the beekeeper.

Selected References

Jamie D. Ellis and Amanda Ellis. 2012. African honey bee, Africanized honey bee, killer bee, *Apis mellifera scutellata* Lepelletier (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Apidae). EENY 429. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/in790>.

H. Glenn Hall, Catherine Zettel-Nalen, and James D. Ellis. 2014. African honey bee: what you need to know. ENY 114. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota-docs/ipm/need-to-know.pdf>.

M. K. O'Malley, J. D. Ellis, and A. S. Neal. 2012. Frequently asked questions about the Africanized honey bee in Florida. ENY 140. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. https://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/grants_showcase/fruit/IN73800.pdf.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry. 2013. Best Management Requirements for Producing Honey Bee Queens in Florida. http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/24006/486787/bmp_hbq.doc.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry. 2013. Beekeeper Compliance Agreement—Best Management Requirements for Maintaining European Honey Bee Colonies <https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/71086/file/08418%20cleaned%20up.pdf>.

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Proposed Location



Property Information

Property ID 15//018.15
Location MORGAN LANE
Owner TOWN OF TOLLAND



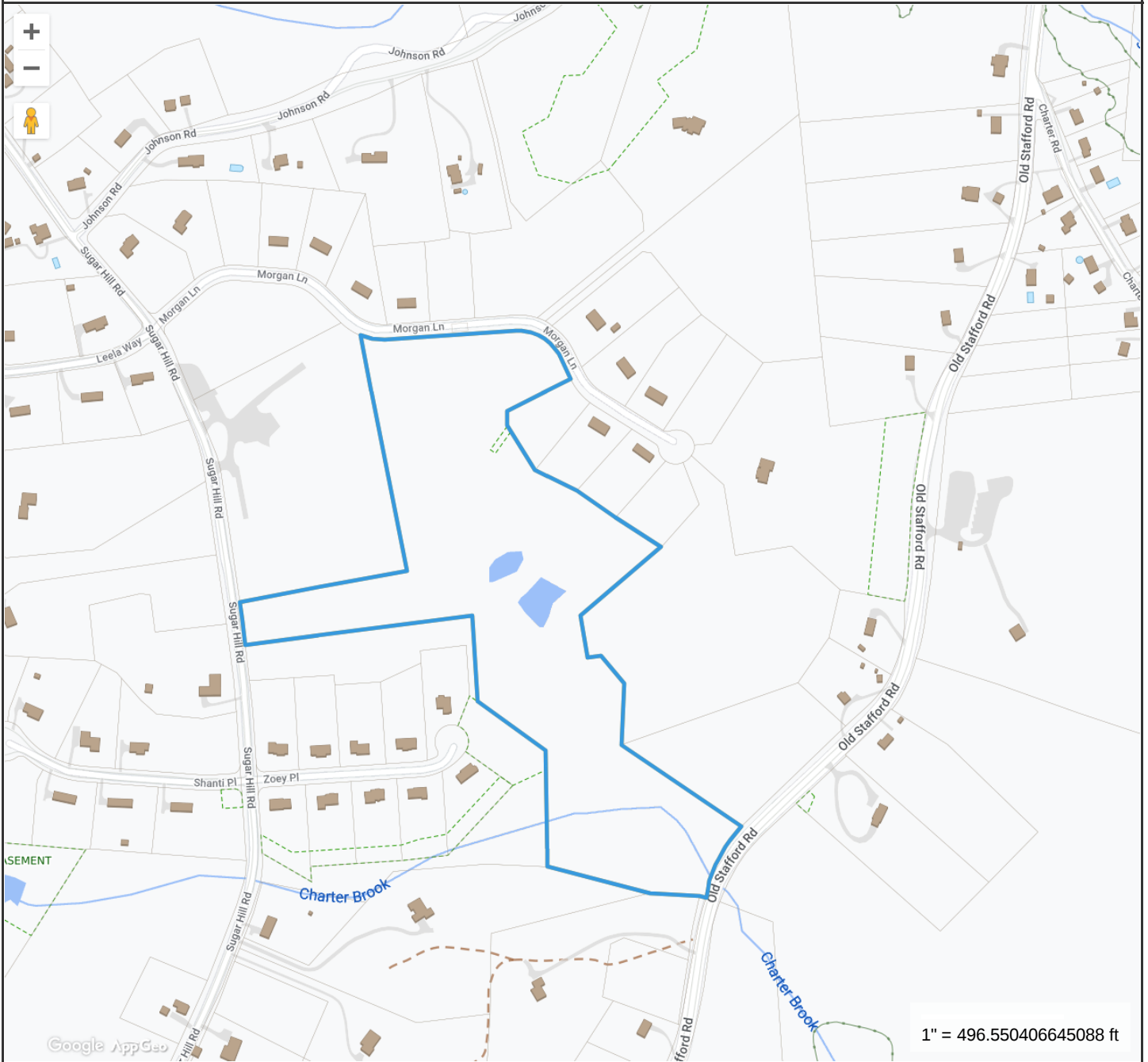
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Geometry updated October 25, 2021
Data updated daily

Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

Proposed Location



Property Information

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 Location MORGAN LANE
 Owner TOWN OF TOLLAND



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Geometry updated October 25, 2021
 Data updated daily

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Tolland Agriculture Commission

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 7:00pm

Conference Room B, 2nd Level, 21 Tolland Green, Tolland,
Connecticut

Members Present: Steve Lundgren, Kevin Molloy, Archie Tanner, Sheri Sullivan

Others Present: David Corcoran

1. Call to Order: S. Lundgren called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. Seat Alternate: no alternate was seated
3. Public Participation: Rich Carabillo, Ray McKenna
 - 3.1 R. Carabillo brought forth his concerns about cleaning up the stone wall and fence area that borders Campbell Farm and the Property known as the Village of Crystal Springs. Rich's request is that the town bring in a bush hog to clean up the area. R. Carabillo presented to the commission pictures of how the area use to look like.
 - 3.2 R. McKenna brought forth his concerns about the pond area on Campbell Farm. Ray's request is that the town clean up the area along the pond that borders the Property known as the Village of Crystal Springs and the area from the barn on Campbell Farm to the pond. Ray's concerns include the overgrowth of trees and the invasive weeds in that area.
 - 3.3 The Commission presented that Campbell farm is a monthly topic of discussion and an ongoing project. Items that are being addressed include-
 - a. Present tenant is doing a great job of cleaning up area and will be monitored to insure it continues.
 - b. Commission is actively looking into grants to have a well put on the property to help rent maintain the property.
 - c. Commission will ask Town Manager to conduct a site visit to see what the commission is proposing.
 - d. Commission will develop a list of items that needs to be addressed at Campbell farm and present it to public works, so that when resources are available these items can be completed.
4. Additions to Agenda- no additions
5. Old Business:
 - 5.1 Campbell Farm- D. Corcoran looked into the options of putting gutters on the barn at Campbell farm vs. looking into a well. D. Corcoran feels a well is a better long term option. D. Corcoran will look getting quotes from Stavens and Eastern Drill.
6. New Business:
 - 6.1 Farm to Table Follow Up- Commission will revisit the idea next year

- 6.2 Livestock and Small Stock Regulations- Regulations passed this year. A 4 H exemption was included.
7. Other Business- D. Corcoran brought forward a request that was made to use town open space on Sugar Hill Road for an individual to put bee hives on the property. Commission will look at regulations and put on next month's agenda.
 8. Approve Minutes- S. Lundgren made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022 and August 22, 2022 regular meetings. A. Tanner seconded the motion, All in favor, Motion was approved.
 9. List of Topics for the next meeting-
 - a. Bee Hive regulations
 - b. Campbell Farm
 1. Work on grant idea's
 2. Develop a list for Public works for clean up
 10. Adjournment: S. Lundgren made a motion to adjourn, K. Molloy seconded the motion, Motion was approved. Meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Sullivan